Message Text

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STATE PASS EPA AND NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

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TAGS: SENV BEXP RO

SUBJ: GOR ENVIRONMENTAL JOINT VENTURE PROPOSAL

- 1. IN DECEMBER 22 CALL ON DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER GLIGA,
 AMBASSADOR WAS PRESENTED WITH SWEEPING GOR PROPOSAL FOR
 BILATERAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT IN "ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION".
 AGREEMENT, WHICH PRESENTED BY SECRETARY GENERAL OF ROMANIAN
 NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (RCEP), CALLS
 FOR BOTH GOVERNMENTS TO FACILITATE ESTABLISHMENT IN ROMANIA
 OF COMPANY TO PRODUCE AND MARKET "FACILTIES, EQUIPMENT,
 DEVICES, AND OTHER SYSTEMS" ACROSS ENTIRE SPECTRUM OF
 ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL PROBLEMS.
- 2. IN ITS PRESENT FORM, GOR PROPOSAL (BEING POUCHED TO COMMERCE PORTER, EPA-FITZHUGH GREEN AND THE DEPARTMENT CHRISTENSEN) IS AMORPHOUS AND BASED ON FAULTY UNDERSTANDING OF RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN USG AND PRIVATE INDUSTRY. WE ARE THEREFORE NOT ASKING THAT WASHINGTON AGENCIES RESPOND DIRECTLY TO AGREEMENT.
- 3. PROPOSAL, WHICH HAS ROOTS IN USDOC TSS ON WATER TREATMENT AND PURIFICATION IN FEBRUARY 1975, DOES, HOWEVER, REFLECT SERIOUS GOR DESIRE TO ESTABLISH COOPERATION WITH AMERICAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FIRMS AND USG IN ENVIRONMENTAL FIELD. WE BELIEVE THAT THIS

DESIRE WITH ITS IMPLICIT EXPORT POTENTIAL IS WORTHY OF CREATIVE CONSIDERATION.

- 4. AT THIS STAGE WE FEEL BEST APPROACH WOULD BE TO ADVISE ROMANIANS AS TO HOW THEY COULD ESTABLISH AN ORDERLY FRAMEWORK FOR CONTACTS WITH US FIRMS IN ENVIRONMENTAL FIELD. WE WOULD HOPE WASHINGTON AGENCIES COULD OFFER RECOMMENDATION AS TO MOST FRUITFUL PROSPECTS. ONE APPROACH WHICH IS BEING TRIED HERE IN ENERGY FIELD AND WHICH MIGHT OFFER SOME PROMISE, WOULD BE TO SUGGEST CONSULTING FIRMS SPECIALIZING IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION WHICH MIGHT BE PREPARED TO SERVE AS CONTACT POINT BETWEEN GOR AND MANUFACTURERS. ANOTHER, WHICH WOULD CERTAINLY HAVE APPEAL FOR GOR, WOULD BE FOR EPA AND/OR COMMERCE TO PLAY INTERMEDIARY ROLE WITH U.S. FIRMS. THIRD ALTERNATIVE MIGHT BE FOR USDOC TO EXPLORE PROPOSAL WITHONE OR SEVERAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSOCIATIONS, SUCH AS WATER AND WASTE WATER EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS ASSN.
- 5. IN INTERIM WE WILL SEEK MORE INFORMATION FROM GOR TO CLARIFY PROPOSAL. LIKELIHOOD IS, HOWEVER, THAT RCEP HAS ONLY RUDIMENTARY CONCEPT OF ITS OWN NEEDS AND, AS IN OTHER FIELDS, IS LOOKING TO PROSPECTIVE PARTNER TO DEFINE THOSE REQUIREMENTS. HENCE THERE IS LITTLE PROSPECT OF OUR BEING ABLE TO CHANNEL THIS INFORMATION THROUGH USDOC TRADE OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM FOR FORESEEABLE FUTURE. WOULD PLAN TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SCIENCE ATTACHE'S PRESENCE IN WASHINGTON FOR FEBRUARY EXCHANGE AGREEMENT REVIEW TALKS TO DISCUSS PROPOSAL FURTHER.

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